

Vision73 FAQ

Building and Equipping a New School

The November 2016 election contained a referendum ballot question for East Prairie D73: Should East Prairie School District 73 build and equip a new school? The voters of the District approved the referendum by a 2-1 vote with a 65% approval rating. The following information is being provided to keep community members abreast of the many details involved in such an endeavor.

- **Education:** The education of our children is the reason we exist. Students will continue to be educated in our present facility while we phase our construction. Classrooms will be shifted, offices combined, and services will continue to be offered at the quality families expect from East Prairie School.
- **Community:** The community will continue to be updated via our Vision73 website, in our On the Prairie monthly newsletter, and our district-wide publication, The Gazette, and at monthly Board of Education meetings.
- **Traffic & Safety:** A high concern on our list is the traffic and safety aspects of such an endeavor. A Traffic Survey is required by the Village to help us ascertain current and factual information during and after the construction phase.
- **Finance:** As established through our community engagement meetings, a new school would cost \$47.3 million. During the May 17, 2016 meeting the following question was asked: How do we go above our debt limit when we need \$40 million for a new school? Three options were given:
 - 1) exploding enrollment exception to the debt limit where enrollment grows year over year by 10% or 200 students;
 - 2) referendum is approved by 67% of the registered voters of the District; or
 - 3) special legislation is approved for an exception from the statutory debt limit.

We are pursuing option 3 and seeking the legislation for an exception.

- **Next Steps:** As the District works with our legislators for debt limit exception approval, the preplanning phases are underway. The District properties were surveyed as required, soil borings were conducted, and as mentioned earlier, a traffic survey will take place in the near future.

Detailed information may be found on www.Vision73.net.